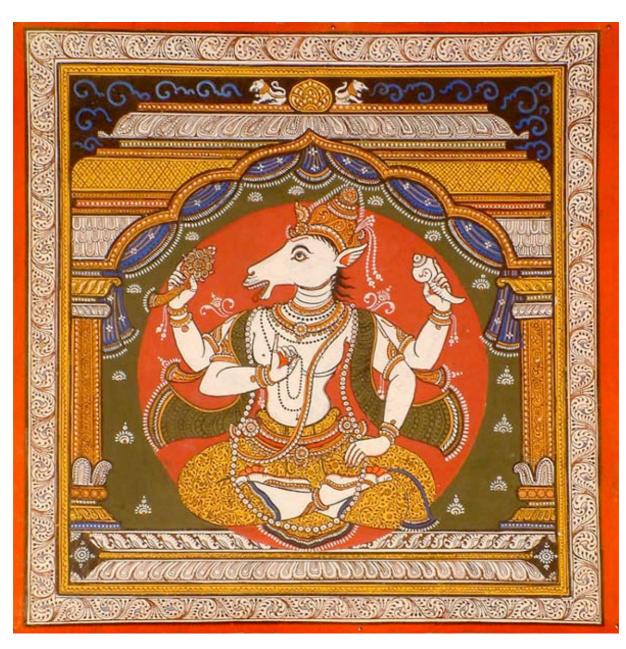
ŚRĪ VAIṢŅAVA YAJUR VEDA UPAKARMA Prayogaḥ



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ŚRĪ VAIṢŅAVA YAJUR VEDA UPAKARMA

pakarma is usually held on the full moon day of the month of Shravana. The significance of this day is that Lord Vishnu took the form of a horse and restored the Veda that was stolen from Lord Brahma by the demons. As lord Vishnu took the form of a horse, this incarnation is called Hayagriva or "horse-head". So the day of upakarma is also celebrated as Hayagriva's appearance day. Upakarma is performed on this day to mark beginning of the Vedic study year.

For Rig Vedins, it is performed on Shravana nakshatra day of Shravana month. For Yajur Vedins it is performed on Paurnami of Shravana month¹.

The purport of this ceremony is for the absolution of all sins committed during the year and the for reaffirmation of our commitment to leading a Dharmic life as dvijas and to seek the blessings of our 'mula gurus' and 'rishis'.

Shastras say that it is not only for personal welfare but it also uplifts the society.

❖ In the morning rise and perform nitya kṛiya [snāna, sandhya vandana etc.]

Guru parampara Dhyānam

1.a. periya jīyar taniyan (Teṅgalai)

śrī śailesa dayā-pātram dhī-bhaktyādi guṇārnavam | yatindra-pravanam vande ramya-jāmātaram munim ||

I pay my obeisance to the sage Manavallamamuni who is an ocean of virtues such as intelligence and devotion and who received the mercy of his guru Sri Sailesa and is so attached to Ramanuja.

1.b. vedānta deśikan taniyan (Vaḍagalai)

rāmānuja dayā-pātram jñāna-vairāgya bhūṣaṇam l śrīmat veṅkaṭa-nāthāryaṃ vande vedānta deśikan ll

I salute the lineage of preceptors and Vedanta Desikan who was the recipient of the mercy of Ramanuja and is the ornament of knowledge and dispassion.

2. guru parampara taniyan

lakṣmī-nātha samārambhām nātha yāmuna madhyamām | asmat ācārya paryantām vande guru paramparām ||

Beginning from the Supreme Lord, through Nathamuni and Yamunacharya, down to our own acarya I salute the entire lineage of spiritual masters.

¹ Yajur upakarma falls on full moon of Sravana month. If it not possible to perform it in that month due to unfavorable circumstances, then the same can be performed on the paurnami of Bhadrapada month (i.e., the following month).

3. Rāmānuja taniyan

yo nitya-acyuta padāmbuja yugma rukma vyāmohas tad itarāni tṛṇāya mene l asmat guror bhagavato'sya dayaika sindhoḥ rāmānujasya caraṇau śaraṇaṃ prapadye ll

I seek refuge in the feet of Bhagavad Ramanuja, our teacher who is an ocean of compassion, who considered everything apart from the precious lotus feet of Krishna to be worthless.

Kāmokarsīt manyur-akārsīt japam

- After morning bath and sandhyāvandanam perform two ācamanam and sit down on a slightly raised platform facing east.
- Place two darbhās on your seat.
- ❖ Wear a pavitram prepared out of two darbhās on your right hand ring finger and fold two darbhās around your ring finger.
- Perform three prānāyāmas

Sankalpah

hariḥ om tat sat śrī govinda 3 śubhe śobhane muhūrte adye śrī bhagavato mahā-puruṣasya śrī viṣṇoḥ ājñaya pravartamānasya ādya brahmaṇaḥ dvitīya parārdhe śrī śveta varāha kalpe vaivasvata manvantare aṣṭāvimśatīttame kali yuge prathama pāde jāmbu-dvīpe meroḥ dakṣiṇa dig-bhāge hiraṇmaya varṣe hiraṇmaya deśe deśe mahā nagari antargate vyavahārikānām prabhavādi
şaşthi samvatsarānām madhye nāma samvatsare dakṣina ayane
hemanta rtau simha māse śukla pakṣe paurṇamāsyām śubha tithau
vāsara yuktāyām nakṣatra yuktāyām śrī viṣṇu yoge śrī viṣṇu karaṇe
śubha yoga śubha karane sakala graha guna viśesana visisthāyām
Harih om tatsat. Govinda, Govinda, Govinda, with the sanction of the Supreme Being Lord Vishnu, in this period during the second half of the life-span of the demiurge Brahma, during the aeon of the White Boar, during the universal rule of Vaivasvata Manu in the 28th period, during the first quarter of the age of Kali, on the planet Earth in land south of mount Meru, in the Golden Land, in the country of, in the city of, in the year, of the 60 year Jovian cycle, in the Southern solstice, during the winter season, in the month of Sravana in the bright fortnight, on the, lunar day, on a, day under the constellation of, with auspicious conjunctions, and all the planets being benevolently disposed;
taiṣyām paurṇamāsyām adhyāyotsarjanā karaṇa prāyaścittārtham aṣṭhottara śata saṅkhyayā - 'kāmo 'karṣīn manyur akarṣīt' - iti mahā-mantra japā kariṣye.
In order to atone for all the offences that I have committed I now recite 108 times the mantra — 'desire is the cause, anger is the cause'.

Sāttvika tyāgam

Bhagavān eva sva-niyāmya sva-rūpa sthiti pravṛtti sva-śeṣataika rasena, anena ātmanā kartrā svakiyaiś-copakaraṇaiḥ svārādhanaika prayojanāya, parama-puruṣaḥ sarva śeṣī śrīyaḥ patiḥ svaśeṣa-bhūtam, idaṃ 'kāmo 'karṣīn manyur akarṣīt' mahāmantra japa karma svasmai, svaprītaye svayam-eva kārayati ||

- ❖ Ācamanam x 2.
- Repeat the mantra at least 108 times.

kāmo 'karşīn manyur akarşīn namo namah

❖ having done ācamanam, wear a pavitri on the right ring-finger, facing the east

Sankalpah

om pūrvokta guņa višeṣaṇa visiṣṭhāyām etc.

ājñayā bhagavat kainkarya rupam — [anādi-avidyā-vāsanayā, bhagavad pravartamāne, asmin mahati samsāra cakre, vicitrābhih, karma gatibhih, vicitrāsu yonisu, punah punah, anekadhā janitvā, kenāpi punya karma viśesena, idānīntana mānusye dvija janma višesam prāptavato, mama [asmākam], iha janmani, pūrva janmasu, mayā [asmābhih] krtānām, mahā pātakānām, nisiddha śāstra-abhigamanaādīnām, veśyādi samsarga nimittānām, bālye, vayasi, kaumāre, yauvane, vārdhake, jāgrat, svapna, susupti avasthāsu, mano, vāk, kāya, sarvendriya, vyāpāraiśca, samsarga nimittānām, bhūyo bhūyah, abhyasthānām, tatra tatra, garbhotpati, nimittānām, tat saha-bhojana, tad ucchistha bhaksana nimittānām, vrksa-cchedana, dhānya-raupaya, asat-chāstra-alāpa, grāmādhikāra, mathādikāra, paurohitya, parīkṣā pakṣa-pātaka, sama-pātakānām, jñānatah, sakṛt-kṛtānām, ajñānatah asakṛt-kṛtānām, jñānata-ajñānataśca, abhyastānām, atyanta-abhyasthānām nirantara-abhyastānām, sankarī karanānām, malinī karanānām, apātrī karanānām, avihita karmācarana, vihita karma tyāgādīnām, prakīrnakānām, mahā-pātakānām, ati-pātakānām, evā navānām nava vidhānām, bahūnām bahu vidhānām, sarveṣām, pāpānām, apanodana dvārā, ayājya yājana, asat-pratigrahā, abhaksya bhaksana, abhojya bhojana, apeya pānādi, samasta pāpa-ksayārtham, śrī-bhū nīlā sameta śrīman nārāyana svāmi sannidau, trayas-trimsat koti devatā sannidhau, brāhmanāh śrī-vaisnavāh sannidhau, mama [asmākam] samasta pāpa ksayārtham² — śrāvanyām paurnamāsyām, adhyāyana upakarma karişye, [karişyāmaḥ] [tad angam snānam karişye.] tad angam kāṇḍa ṛṣi tarpanam karisye [karisyāmah] - tad angam yajnopavīta dhāranam karisye [karisyāmah]

With the sanction of the Supreme Being, and as service alone, due to ignorance from time immemorial, we are wandering about in this great ocean of Samsara, impelled by our diverse karmas; becoming involved

² The section in brackets is not usually recited by orthodox Tengalai Srivaishnavas since the act of prapatti resolves all sinful acts, the only act of prāyaścitta is to reflect upon the grace and compassion of Lord Nārāyaṇa. Still for the sake of the youth and to help them to understand the solemn nature of undergoing *upanayana* with all its responsibilities, I have retained the text here so that those who wish to do so can recite it to remind themselves of their obligations.

in diverse circumstances, and being born again and again in various species. At last, due to some specific act of great merit, we have been born as human beings, and moreover we have been granted the great privilege of becoming dvijas. In this birth and in our previous births, we have committed a great number of offences, which have caused us to become degraded; major offences, acts that have been forbidden by Shastra; during childhood, youth and adulthood; in the various levels of consciousness, while awake and while dreaming; wittingly and unwittingly, and in delusion; by our actions, speech and mind; through all our senses and through our acts of daily living; an enormous number of sins have been committed such as eating with the unsuitable people, eating contaminated food, destruction of trees and plants, discussion of unbeneficial literature, disrespecting elders, community leaders and priests, and failing to remain neutral and balanced, committing transgressions knowingly once and unknowingly many times, offences done repeatedly, deeds that have spiritually contaminated us, and made us unworthy of our status as dvijas. We have done those deeds which we should not have, and refrained from doing what we should have; miscellaneous sins, major sins and even mortal sins. For the absolution of all the nine types of sins; two of the mind — believing in false doctrines, thinking badly of others, three of speech: lying, slander and gossip and four of body: taking that which was not given, causing injury to other living beings, not rendering assistance to others in time of need and sexual misconduct. And for the additional offences of sacrificing for those who were unworthy of participating, for accepting gifts from unworthy donors, eating forbidden items, for enjoying forbidden pleasures, drinking forbidden drinks, for the absolution of all these sins, in the presence of all the 33 devas, in the company of Brahmins and Srivaishnavas we shall now perform this Upakarma rite consisting of sanctification, and offering of libations to the Rishis and the changing of the sacred thread.

Yajñopavīta Dhāraņa Krama

Changing of the Sacred Thread

bhagavad ājñayā bhagavad kaiṅkarya rūpam śrauta smārta vihita sadācāra nitya karma anuṣṭhāna yogyata siddhyarthaṁ brahma-tejo'bhivṛddhyarthaṁ yajñopavīta dhāraṇaṁ kariṣye.

In order to invoke the grace of the Supreme Lord, as service to Him, in order to observe the injunctions of the sacred law and to obtain the right to perform my daily obligatory duties, in order to increase my spiritual learning I shall now don the sacred thread.

1. Repeat the following and do the indicated nyāsas
yajñopavīta dhāraṇa mahā-mantrasya;
brahmā ṛṣiḥ | [touch the forehead]
triṣṭup chandaḥ [touch the mouth]
trayī vidyā devatāḥ [touch the heart]
yajñopavīta dhārane viniyogah |



♦ Hold the sacred thread with the left hand over the pañcapātra and the right hand palm upwards towards the ceiling and recite the mantra;

yajñopavītam paramam pavitram, prajāpateh yat sahajam purastāt | āyuṣyam agriyam pratimuñca śubhram, yajñopavītam balam astu tejah ||

This sacred thread, supremely holy, born with Prajapati of yore, conducive to long life, and excellent, wear this pure sacred thread; may it conduce to strength and vigour.

- wear the new thread.
- grhastha should repeat the following sankalpa and repeat the performance with a second thread.

Grihastha Sankalpaḥ

asyām subha tithau, bhagavat ājñayā, bhagavat kaiṅkarya rūpaṁ, gārhasthya arthaṁ dvitīya yajñopavīta dhāraṇaṁ kariṣye;

On this auspicious day with the sanction of the Supreme Person and as service to Him alone, and to be established in the state of a householder I now don the second sacrificial thread.

- don the second thread.
- ❖ repeat the following śloka and then remove the old thread

upavītam bhinna tantum jīrnam kaśmala dūṣitam l visrajāmi hare brahman varco dīrghāyur astu me ||

I now again discard this old sacrificial thread, thread-bare, worn, and stained, may I attain brahmic radiance and longevity O Brahma.

repeat acamanam twice.

Tarpanam

- ❖ Perform tarpanam with water containing sesame & akṣata. If possible it should be done while standing in a river or in the sea, but if not it can be done pouring the water into trays.
- ❖ Wear the yajñopavītam around the neck like a garland [nivītam] grasp it with the thumbs and offer the water with the palms cupped and dropping the water from between the palms.
- ❖ [if using a panchapatra hold the yajñopavītam with the thumb of the right hand and pour the water into the right hand with the left.]
- Offer from the rsi tirtha;
 - 1. om prajāpatim kānda rsīm tarpayāmi
 - 2. om somam kānda rsīm tarpayāmi
 - 3. om agnim kānda rsīm tarpayāmi
 - 4. om viśvān devān kānda rsīm tarpayāmi
 - 5. om sāgumhitīr devatā upanisadas tarpayāmi
 - 6. om yājñikīr devatā upanisadas tarpayāmi
 - 7. om vāruņīr devatā upanisadas tarpayāmi
 - offer from the brahma tirtha;
 - 8. om brahmānam svayambhuvam tarpayāmi
 - offer from the devata tirtha:
 - 9. om sadasaspatim tarpayāmi

Vedārambha

Sankalpam — śrī bhagavad ājnayā bhagavad kainkarya rupena śrāvanyām paurnamāsyām svādhyāya upakarma antargate brahma yajnena yakṣye ||

ārambha mantra — kṛtañca kariṣyāmi, bhagavan nityena, bhagavat kainkarya rūpeṇa, mahā vibhūti cāturātmyā, brahma-yajñena bhagavantam vāsudevam arcayiṣyāmi ||

I am engaged in doing that which has already been done; it is the daily rite; the service of the Supreme Being Sri Krishna; I shall now adore the Divine Vasudeva through this rite of Brahma-yajna.

❖ Wash the hands while reciting;

vidyudasi vidya me pāpmān anrtāt satyam upaimi ||

O Lord you are the Supreme Light; make me mindful of my transgressions, by this may I reach the Truth.

- Repeat ācamanam silently, wipe mouth and then wash hands.
- ❖ Touch water and then touch each of the following parts of the body.

Head - all fingers.
Eyes - ring finger.
Nose - index finger.
Ears - little finger.
Chest - palm of the hand.

- ❖ Wash hands again, spread darbha and be seated thereupon.
- ❖ Place pavitris on both hands and then do three prāṇāyāmas.
- ❖ Sit with the right leg above the left one and clasp the brahmānjali then recite;

om bhūḥ | tat savituḥ vareṇyaṁ |
om bhuvaḥ | bhargo devasya dhīmahi |
om suvaḥ | dhiyo yo naḥ pracodayät |

om bhūḥ | tat savituḥ varenyam | bhargo devasya dhīmahi | om suvaḥ | dhiyo yo naḥ pracodayät |

om bhūḥ bhuvaḥ suvaḥ | tat savituḥ varënyaṁ bhargo devasya dhīmahi | dhiyo yo naḥ pracodayät |

om bhūḥ bhuvaḥ suvaḥ | tat savituḥ varënyaṁ bhargoʻ devasya dhīmahi | dhiyo yo naḥ pracodayät |

* Recite the first verse of each of the Vedas;

Rig Veda

agnim İle purohitam yajñasya devam rtvijam | hotaram ratna dhatamam || 1 || I Praise Agni, the Chosen Mediator, the Shining One, the Minister, the summoner, who most grants ecstasy.

Yajur Veda

O Palasha branch I am cutting you in order to use you as an offering to the gods. O Calves! Depart from your mothers to the forest to eat grass and again return to your master's house in the evening. O Cows the Supreme Lord that is within you impels you so that your milk may be used in the sacrifice.

Sāma Veda

agna āyāhi vītaye gṛṇāno havya dataye | nihota satsi barhiṣi || 3 ||

Agni moves and arouses the desires of the devotee to bestow oblations. He presides below in existence and binds us with desires to the variegated sense activities.

Atharvana Veda

śan-no devīr-abhiṣṭaya āpo bhavantu pītaye | śaṃ yor-abhisravantu naḥ || 4 ||

May the excellent waters be helpful to us for our bliss and our drink. May they flow all around, for curing our ailments, and preventing us from falling prey to them.

Purușa Sūkta Parāyaṇam

om taccham yorāvṛṇīmahe | gātum yajñāya | gātum yajñapa taye | daivī svastirastu naḥ | svastirmānuṣebhyaḥ | ūrdhvam jigātu bheṣajam | śanno astu dvipade | śam catuṣpade | om śāntiḥ śāntiḥ sāntiḥ ll

hariḥ om || om sahasraśīrṣā puruṣaḥ | sahasrākṣaḥ sahasrapāt | sa bhūmim viśvato vṛtvā | atyatiṣṭhaddaśāṅgulam || 1 || puruṣa evedam sarvam | yadbhūtam yacca bhavyam | utāmṛtatvasyeśānaḥ | yadannenātirohati || 2 || etāvānasya mahimā | ato jyāyāmśca pūruṣaḥ | pādo'sya viśvā bhūtāni | tripādasyāmṛtam divi || 3 || tripādūrdhva udaitpuruṣaḥ | pādo'syehā''bhavātpunaḥ | tato viśvanvyakrāmat | sāśanānaśane abhi || 4 || tasmād virāḍajāyata | virājo adhi pūruṣaḥ | sa jāto atyaricyata | paścādbhūmimatho puraḥ || 5 ||

yatpurusena havisa | devā yajnamatanvata | vasanto asyāsīdājyam ghrīsma idhmaḥ śaradd-haviḥ || 6 || saptāsyāsanparidhayaḥ | triḥ sapta samidhaḥ kṛtāḥ | devā yad yajñam tanvānāḥ | abadhnan puruṣam paśum || 7 || tam yajñam barhisi praukṣan puruṣam jātamagrataḥ | tena devā ayajanta | sādhyā ṛṣayaśca ye || 8 || tasmād yajñāt sarva hutaḥ | sambhṛtam pṛṣadājyam | paśūmstāmscakre vāyavyān | āraṇyān grāmyāsca ye || 9 || tasmād yajñāt sarva hutaḥ | ṛcaḥ sāmāni jajñire | chandāmsi jajñire tasmāt | yajus tasmād ajāyata || 10 || tasmād aśvā ajāyanta | ye ke cobhayādataḥ | gāvo ha jajñire tasmät | tasmäjjata ajavayah || 11 || yat purusam vyadadhuh | katidha vyakalpayan | mukham kimasya kau bāhū | kāvūrū pādavucyete || 12 || brāhmaņo'sya mukhamāsīt | bāhū rājanyaḥ kṛtaḥ | ūrū tadasya yadvaiśyaḥ | padbhyām śūdro ajāyata || 13 || candramā manaso jātah | cakṣoh sūryo ajāyata | mukhād indraścāgniśca | prāṇād vāyur ajāyata || 14 || nābhyā āsīd antarikṣam | śīrṣṇo dyauḥ samavartata | padbhyām bhūmir diśaḥ śroträt | tathā lokām akalpayan || 15 || vedāham etam purusam mahāntam | āditya varņam tamasastu pāre | sarvāņi rūpāņi vicitya dhīraḥ | nāmāni kṛtvā'bhivadan yadāste || 16 || dhātā purastādyamudājahāra | śakraḥ pravidvān pradiśaś catasrah | tam evam vidvān amṛta iha bhavati | nānyaḥ panthā ayanāya vidyate || 17 || yajñena yajñamayajanta devāḥ | tāni dharmāṇi prathamānyāsan | te ha nākam mahimānah sacante | yatra pūrve sādhyāh santi devāḥ || 18 ||

adbhyaḥ sambhūtaḥ pṛthivyai rasäcca | viśvakarmaṇaḥ samavartatādhi | tasya tvaṣṭā vidadhadrūpameti | tatpuruṣasya viśvamājānamagre || 19 || vedāhametam puruṣaṃ mahāntam | ādityavarṇaṃ tamasaḥ parastāt | tamevaṃ vidvānamṛta iha bhavati | nānyaḥ panthā vidyateya'nāya || 20 || prajāpatiścarati garbhe antaḥ | ajāyamano bahudhā vijāyate | tasya dhīrāḥ parijānanti yonim | marīcīnāṃ padam icchanti vedasaḥ || 21 || yo devebhya ātapati | yo devānāṃ purohitaḥ | pūrvo yo devebhyo jātaḥ | namo rucāya brāhmaye || 22 || rucaṃ brāhmam jaṇayantaḥ | devā agre tadabruvan | yastvaivaṃ brāhmaṇo vidyāt | tasya devā asan vaśe || 23 || hrīśca te lakṣmīśca patnyau | ahorātre pārśve | nakṣatrāṇi rūpam | aśvinau vyāttam | iṣṭam maniṣāṇa | amum maniṣāṇa | sarvam maniṣāṇa || 24 || hariḥ om ||

om taccham yorāvṛṇīmahe | gātum yajñāya | gātum yajñapataye | daivis svastirastu naḥ | svastir mānuṣebhyaḥ | ūrdhvam jigātu bheṣajam | śanno astu dvipade | śam catuṣpade ||

om śāntih śāntih śāntih II

Taking water in the right hand sprinkle it around the head with;

om satyam tapah śraddhāyām juhomi |

* Repeat three times;

namo brahmane namo 'stvagnaye namah pṛthivyai nama auṣadhībhyah l namo vāce namo vācas-pataye namo viṣṇave bṛhate karomi ll om śāntiḥ x 3 ll

I pay my obeisance to Brahma (The Vedas) and to you O Agni (Fire of Wisdom), to the Earth (my Support) and to the Herbs (that nourish me). Salutations to Speech and the Lord of Speech, salutations to Vishnu (the omnipresent Truth), this I do for the Sacred Vedas. Om Peace Peace Peace.

Wash the hands;

vṛṣṭir asi vṛśca me pāpmān-anṛtāt satyam upāgām ||

O Lord Thou art the cause of separation; separate me from sin. From untruth I have reached the Truth.

* ācamanam.

Dedication of Action

kāyeṇa vācā manasendriyair vā buddhyātmanā va prakṛtair svabhāvāt l karomi yadyat sakalam parasmai nārāyaṇāyeti samarpayāmi ll

Whatever I achieve through action or speech, by thought or sense organ, by intellect or Self or through my natural disposition, all that I dedicate to the Supreme Lord Sriman Narayana.

